

Darlington Town Centre Bus Improvements



Issues

Bus waiting areas have limited space and could be improved, and some buses take a bit longer to get through the centre of town. There are also improvements that could be made to make walking, wheeling, and cycling journeys more attractive.

We have identified the following **issues**:

- Lots of people use the bus and waiting areas can be overcrowded.
- There is a balance between pedestrianised areas which create a nice town centre environment for shopping and leisure but means buses must take a longer route when travelling through the town centre.
- The one-way town centre loop means buses need to route under Priestgate to serve the bus stops on Tubwell Row. This means journey times are longer than they could be.
- There is limited kerb space and a conflict between delivery vehicles and loading and bus stops.
- Crossing points over St Augustines Way (A68) to access the town centre include three underpasses. Walkers, wheelers, and cyclists may feel unsafe using them.

If you think there are other issues in this area, please let us know on the feedback form.

Opportunities

We want to help make walking, wheeling, cycle, and bus journeys in Darlington town centre quicker and more attractive. We have identified some initial ideas to help solve the issues we have identified. Here are some **opportunities** that may help address the issues in this area:

- Review bus stops and bus service allocations, making them more accessible for residents, workers, and leisure users.
- Review kerb space allocations to manage bus, loading and other requirements.
- We will improve bus stops to make them nicer to wait in and introduce real time information.
- Introduce measures at signalised junctions to enable buses to flow more freely.
- New signage installed to make sure bus stop locations are clear.
- Introduce cycle priority measures such as cycle lanes and cycle crossings.

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- Improve road crossings for pedestrians including safer crossings.
- Improve the underpasses at St Augustines Way (A68) to make walking, wheeling, and cycling routes more attractive.
- Improve paths in the town centre for walking, wheeling, and cycling.



Benefits

These may offer the following **benefits**:

- Reduced town centre conflicts.
- More reliable bus journeys.
- Improved waiting facilities and information for passengers.
- Buses could move through junctions more efficiently and red-light waiting times could reduce.
- Reduced congestion and queuing could result in more reliable journeys for all vehicles.
- Safer, joined up and more attractive walking, wheeling, and cycling paths including wider paths, segregation from vehicles and new foot paths, cycle paths or shared space.
- Safer walking, wheeling, and cycling crossings.

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Impacts

We recognise that there may be some **impacts**, these could include:

- We may need to review the existing on-street parking.
- Cars and other vehicles may have to wait slightly longer at traffic lights or junctions.
- May reduce available space for other road users.

To have your say [click here to complete an on line survey](#)



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